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In memoriam

James
McMillan

1903



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James McMillan

In Memory of Hon. James McMillan

Senator in the Congress of the United States
from Michigan

Proceedings of the Senate and the House of
Representatives in Joint Convention
Wednesday, April second, 1903

Sketch of Senator McMillan's Life
by Charles Moore

Published by Authority of the Legislature
of 1903

By Trainer,
NOV 22 1910

In Memoriam

This memorial booklet is published by authority of the legislature of Michigan, under a concurrent resolution originating in the Senate, which resolution was unanimously concurred in by the House of Representatives.

The proceedings of the joint convention, wherein the memorial exercises were held, and which follow, are taken from the official journals of the House and Senate, the addresses delivered on the occasion being followed by a sketch of Senator McMillan's life, written by Mr. Charles Moore, for many years Senator McMillan's private secretary.

The following Concurrent Resolution was offered by Mr. Combs:

Resolved (the Senate concurring), That a committee of three from the House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a like committee of the Senate in making arrangements for a joint session of the two Houses in memory of the late James McMillan, United States Senator, who died August 10, 1902.

The Speaker announced that the resolution would lie over one day under the rules.

House Journal, January 27.

On the following day, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following message from the House was received and read:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

January 28, 1903.

To the President of the Senate:

SIR—I am instructed by the House to transmit to the Senate the following concurrent resolution:

House resolution No. 50.

Resolved (the Senate concurring), That a committee of three from the House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a like committee of the Senate in making arrangements for a joint session of the two Houses in memory of the late James McMillan, United States Senator, who died August 10, 1902;

Which has been adopted by the House, and in which the concurrence of the Senate is respectfully asked.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES S. PIERCE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The question being on concurring in the adoption of the resolution,

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The President announced as such committee, on the part of the Senate, Senators Lockerby, Glazier and Farr.

Senate Journal, January 29.

The following message from the Senate was received and read:

SENATE CHAMBER,

January 29, 1903.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

SIR—I am instructed by the Senate to return to the House the following concurrent resolution:

House resolution No. 50.

Resolved (the Senate concurring), That a committee of three from the House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a like committee of the Senate in making arrangements for a joint session of the two Houses in memory of the late James McMillan, United States Senator, who died August 10, 1902;

And to inform the House that the Senate has concurred in the adoption of the resolution,

And also to inform the House that Senators Lock-
erby, Glazier and Farr have been named by the Sen-
ate to act with a like committee of the House.

Very respectfully,

ELBERT V. CHILSON,

Secretary of the Senate.

House Journal, January 29.

The Speaker announced the appointment, under House resolution No. 50, of the following committee to act with a like committee of the Senate to arrange for a joint session in memory of the late James McMillan: Representatives Neal, Bolton and Seeley.

House Journal, January 29.

The Select Committee appointed under House reso-
lution No. 50, through its chairman, Mr. Neal, made
the following report:

The committee appointed to arrange for a memorial
convention of the two Houses for the purpose of pay-
ing a fitting tribute to the memory of the late dis-
tinguished United States Senator from Michigan, the
Honorable James McMillan, reports that it has met

with a like committee from the Senate and has made the following arrangements:

Both Houses will convene in Representative Hall April 2, 1903, at eight o'clock p. m., and will be addressed by Senator Julius C. Burrows, Senator Russell A. Alger, Ex-Senator Thomas W. Palmer and Ex-Senator John Patton. The program will be interspersed with appropriate music.

The committee recommends that suitable invitations to attend the exercises be issued to the President of the United States, the Michigan members in Congress, His Excellency the Governor, State Officers, Members of the Supreme Court, and other prominent men; and that the floor of Representative Hall be reserved for members of the Legislature and invited guests, and that the gallery be thrown open to the general public.

FRANK S. NEAL,

T. D. SEELEY,

EARL B. BOLTON.

The report was adopted.

House Journal, March 3.

The Select Committee appointed under House Resolution No. 50, through its Chairman, Mr. Lockerby, made the following report:

Your committee appointed for the purpose of arranging for a memorial service of the two Houses for the purpose of paying a fitting tribute to the memory of the late distinguished United States Senator from Michigan, the Honorable James McMillan, beg leave to report that they have met with the like committee from the House and have arranged as follows:

Both Houses will convene in Representative Hall April 2, 1903, at eight o'clock p. m. and will be addressed by Senator Julius C. Burrows, Senator Russell A. Alger, Ex-Senator Thomas W. Palmer and Ex-Senator John Patton. The program will be interspersed with appropriate music.

The committee further recommends that suitable invitations to attend the exercises be issued to the President of the United States, the Michigan members in Congress, His Excellency the Governor, State Officers, Members of the Supreme Court, and other prominent men, and that the floor of Representative Hall be reserved for members of the Legislature and

invited guests, and that the gallery be thrown open to the general public.

Respectfully submitted,

W^M H. LOCKERBY,

A. W. FARR,

F. P. GLAZIER,

Senate Committee.

The report was adopted.

Senate Journal, March 3.

The Senate was called to order by the President pro tem. at 7:30 o'clock p. m.

A quorum of the Senate was present.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced a committee from the House.

The committee informed the Senate that the House was in session and ready to receive the Senate in Joint Convention, to participate in memorial exercises in memory of the late United States Senator, James McMillan.

The Senate proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Senate Journal, April 2.

The House was called to order by the Speaker at 7:45 o'clock p. m.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the special committee appointed under House resolution No. 50, as embodied in the report of such committee adopted March 3, the Speaker announced that the two Houses of the Legislature would meet in Joint Convention at eight o'clock.

Mr. Neal moved that the Speaker appoint a committee of three to inform the Senate that the House was ready to meet in Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The Speaker appointed as such committee Messrs. Neal, Galbraith and Hemans.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the committee appointed by the House to notify the Senate that the House was ready to meet in Joint Convention.

The committee reported that it had performed the duty assigned it.

The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the members of the Senate, accompanied by the judges of the Supreme Court and State officers, who were admitted and conducted to seats.

Joint Convention

Joint Convention

The Joint Convention was called to order by Hon. O. B. Fuller, President pro tem. of the Senate and President of the Joint Convention.

The roll of the Senate was called by the Secretary, who announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The roll of the House was called by the Clerk, who announced that a quorum of the House was present.

The President announced that the two Houses had met in Joint Convention to commemorate the death of Hon. James McMillan, Senator from Michigan in the Congress of the United States, who died at Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, August 10, 1902.

The following is the program of exercises in Joint Convention.

Memorial Program

Hymn, "Oh God, Thou Art my God"—

Allen's Orchestra.

Remarks—

Hon. O. B. Fuller, President.

Invocation—

Rev. R. C. Dodds, D. D., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Lansing.

Hymn, "Rock of Ages"—

Choir from Industrial School for Boys.

Presentation of resolutions—

Senator Lockerby, Chairman Memorial Committee.

Selection, "Not Dead, but Sleepeth," . . . White.

Amphion Quartette: Messrs. Finch, Haynes,
Waggoner and Esselstyn.

Address—

Hon. John Patton, Ex-U. S. Senator.

Vocal Solo, "The Peace of God," . . . Gounod.

Miss Ethel Farr.

Address—

Hon. R. A. Alger, U. S. Senator.

Hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light"—

Choir from Industrial School for Boys.

Address—

Hon. J. C. Burrows, U. S. Senator.

Vocal Solo, "Crossing the Bar," . . . Dudley Buck.

Elton Esselstyn.

Adoption of Resolutions—

Hymn, "Incline Thine Ear"—

Allen's Orchestra.

Accompanist, Miss Jessie Fuller.

Invocation

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we praise thee for all that thou art in thyself. The only wise, the holy, the just, the powerful and merciful God. We praise thee for the revelation of thyself which thou hast given us, and the relation we sustain to thee. That thou hast taught us the great truth that thou art God thyself alone, and that besides thee there is none else; that it is in thee that we live, and move and have our being; that thou rulest in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth, and we come into thy presence this evening to praise thee for all that thou hast done for us as a people; for the glorious history of the past; for the evidence we have that thou hast been with us as a people. Thou hast established us as a nation; thou hast sustained us. Thy mighty arm hath led us, through all the dangers, to all the glorious victories and achievements of the past. We praise thee, our Heavenly Father, that there has never been a time in our history when we have lacked for the right man for any great and important work to be accomplished; that when the necessity came, thou didst find the man who was competent and willing to lead the mighty hosts of this nation. We thank thee for the history of our statesmen, and our rulers, of our scholars

and our teachers. We thank thee especially, this evening, for the history of that distinguished statesman and leader in whose honor we have gathered, for what he was enabled to accomplish in life, for his sterling Christian character, for his patriotism, for the powers of mind with which thou didst endow him, and that thou didst enable him, in the exercise of the powers given him, to achieve so much for our State, for the nation, and for the world. Comfort and sustain, we beseech thee, by the assurance of thy presence and guidance, the bereaved family. May thy grace be sufficient for them.

We pray, our Father, for these thy servants, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, who have gathered this evening to show their respect to the memory of the distinguished dead. May thy blessing rest upon these services, and grant to those who shall participate in them necessary grace, wisdom and strength, and so order, we pray thee, that all may be done to thy name's honor and glory.

May the blessing of God rest upon thy servant, our Governor; endue him with wisdom and grace to perform the arduous duties that are his.

And we pray that thy blessing may rest upon our distinguished citizens, the members of the Senate of the United States, who are present upon this occasion.

We thank thee for the splendid achievements of these, thy servants, and our prayer is that their lives and health may be spared, that they may be enabled to accomplish still greater things for God and native land. Hear us, forgive us, and accept us, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

Senator Lockerby, on behalf of the Joint Committee, offered the following resolutions:

Died, August 10, 1902, at Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, Hon. James McMillan, senior Senator in the Congress of the United States for the State of Michigan.

This announcement, which came with an unexpected suddenness to the people of our State, caused them to stand abashed in the presence of the Mighty Hand which had deemed it wise to remove from them a man who had endeared himself to them by his nobility of character, and his ability and potent influence in the councils of the nation, and with uncovered head they bowed beneath the stroke which had deprived the State of one of its chieftains, and the nation of a wise and careful counselor.

The people of the State of Michigan recognized in

James McMillan a man of keen and far-seeing judgment, a political leader, conservative and at the same time progressive, whose counsel was always on the side of right, justice and morality, a statesman who was made conspicuous by his invaluable service to both the State and the nation, and in whose judgment they had learned to place the greatest confidence.

In view of the above considerations, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Joint Convention assembled. That the people, through us, their representatives, hereby declare their sense of the great loss sustained in the demise of the Hon. James McMillan, that they recognize the loyalty of his service; that they remember him as their devoted champion and true friend, and that, among the great names in Michigan history, his name will ever remain as a synonym for greatness, nobleness and true-hearted devotion to his fellow citizens; and that we express our belief that in the years to come, on the pages of history where are grouped the names of the illustrious sons of Michigan who have proven themselves great among all, as servants of the nation and the people, no name will read more brightly there than that of James McMillan; and be it

Resolved further, That, as a mark of the approval by the people of the State of the life and character of

James McMillan, and of their devotion to his memory, as well as an expression of their sympathy in her great bereavement, a copy of these resolutions, suitably engrossed, be prepared and transmitted to the widow of the deceased.

W^M. H. LOCKERBY,

A. W. FARR,

FRANK P. GLAZIER.

Senate Committee.

FRANK S. NEAL,

THADDEUS SEELEY,

EARL B. BOLTON,

House Committee.

Hon. John Patton

Address by Hon. John Patton

Mr. President:

When the sad news came to me of the death of Senator McMillan I was in the heart of the Canadian wilderness, in the province of Ontario in which he was born. I thought of the lad of seventeen, who had started from Hamilton for Detroit forty-seven years before, to enter on that career of endeavor and high achievement, which began in obscurity and ended in fame and fortune, and added another name to the ever lengthening roll of those who are the shining examples of the possibilities open to a poor boy under American institutions.

Those of us who witnessed the great outpouring of the people of the state he loved and served, the manifestations of sorrow on every hand, and the presence of the most distinguished of the nation at his funeral, felt that it was a fitting tribute to such a life. Appropriate eulogies have been pronounced by the leaders of the great body in which he filled so honored a place, and where he exercised such a powerful influence for so many years, and it is proper that we who knew him

best should meet here in the capital of the State to pay a last tribute to his life and public service.

His untimely death, which came with such a shock to us all, impressed us anew with the brevity of human life and the frailty of human hopes and ambitions. The mystery we call life still remains unsolved, and all the marvelous discoveries of science in the proud age in which we live, have as yet failed to send a single ray of light into the future.

An illustration for it was found when the chief of the assembly rose before the old Saxon king in the ancient hall and said "You remember it may be, O king, that which sometimes happens in winter when you are seated at table with your earls and thanes, your fire is lighted, and your hall is warmed, and without is rain and snow and storm. Then comes a swallow flying across the hall. He enters by one door and leaves by another. The brief moment while he is within is pleasant to him; the bird flies away in the twinkling of an eye, and he passes from winter to winter. Such, methinks, is the life of man on earth compared to the uncertain time beyond. It appears for awhile, but what is the time which comes after—the time which was before—we know not."

Death, the great and universal leveler, knows neither classes nor conditions. It is the one certain event

which will envelop in its sombre folds high and low alike, and yet in our foolish blindness we travel the journey of life with the delusion that it is far removed from each of us.

One who thought much described life as "a little loving and a good deal of sorrowing. Some bright hopes and many grievous disappointments. Some gorgeous Thursdays when the skies are bright and the heavens blue, when Providence bending over us in blessings glads the heart almost to madness; many dismal Fridays when the smoke of torment beclouds the mind and undying sorrow gnaws upon the heart.

Some high ambitions and many Waterloo defeats until the heart becomes like a charnel house filled with dead affections, embalmed in holy but sorrowful memories, and then the chord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken, the individual life a cloud, a vapor, passes away."

And the philosopher who traced the progress of man, and marked his aspirations through the centuries, summed up human experience by saying "In the confidence of youth he imagines that very much is under his control, in the disappointments of old age very little. The realities of life undeceive him at last, and there steals over the evenings of his days an unwelcome conviction of the vanity of human

hopes. The things he has secured are not the things he expected. He sees a supreme power has been using him for unknown ends, that he was brought into the world without his own knowledge, and is departing from it against his own will."

This life which we commemorate had all these experiences common to humanity, of joy and sorrow, success and failure, but much was accomplished, and it has left an enduring mark.

In the domain of business he was indeed a captain of industry, at the head of large enterprises, with a mind capable of grasping the necessities of the changed conditions of our time, evolving plans for transportation and commerce, which brought him wealth and have done much for the development of Michigan.

The great industries which he fostered and managed gave employment to a vast number of men whose welfare was always a matter of much concern to him. He told me once that but for the unhappy experience at Pullman, Ill., he would have built a model town for working-men in connection with the car shops at Detroit.

He did a great service to the State when he projected and built the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic railroad through the Upper Peninsula, for he thus married the two peninsulas in indissoluble bonds,

allayed the feeling that was growing that they should be separated, and silenced the talk of the possible state of Superior.

He was a close student of and familiar with all the varied resources of our wonderful State, and in him they always had a loyal and unswerving friend. At the head of the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Co. he realized more than any other of our public men the improvements that were needed for the development of the traffic of the great lakes. The historic background of Michigan, the story of the French and English dominations, the history of our great waterways, were familiar to him, from the time Jean Nicolet, the first white man, the Norman voyageur, propelled his adventurous canoe up the river to the site of the Sault Ste. Marie in 1634.

When congressmen from the interior of the country were skeptical about the statements of the increasing tonnage, which seemed like such a fairy tale he convinced them and won their aid by taking them up the lakes in the summer that they might view it for themselves. He could interpret the estimates of engineers to his colleagues, for Hay Lake channel and the St. Clair river were as familiar to him as the streets of Detroit. The life saving stations, and the revolving lights which flash out their messages on Huron, Su-

perior and Michigan, are the evidences of the watchful care he exercised over our commerce.

All this modern development would appear marvelous to our early statesmen could they see it now, for as late as 1840, when an appropriation was asked from Congress to build the first canal at the "Soo," the great statesman, Henry Clay, was so uninformed and so poor a prophet that he ridiculed the project and stated in a speech "that the proposed canal would reach to regions beyond the remotest range of settlements in the United States, or the moon."

Senator McMillan had a most charitable nature and scattered far and wide his benefactions with a lavish hand. He will be remembered by the sick and unfortunate for the noble gift he made to Detroit in the splendid hospital, which bears the name of the beloved daughter who was so early taken from him.

The Art Museum at Detroit, the University at Ann Arbor, Albion College, other State institutions, the Mary Allen Seminary in Texas, numerous private charities, and a multitude of churches all speak of wise and helpful gifts from him.

He was indeed a kindly man, a gentleman always, and had a genial and sunny temperament for all who were admitted to his friendship.

"His gentleness, his tenderness, his fair courtesy,
Were like a ring of virtues 'bout him set,
And God-like charity, the center where all met."

As a political general, he led the campaigns of his party in this State with consummate skill, in many victorious battles, as no one else has since Chandler died, and he had the unbounded confidence of the party.

He was wise in counsel, and by reason of his long service, and because of his capacity and ability, he served on the most important and influential committees of the Senate. He was the trusted and intimate friend of Allison and Aldrich and Lodge, and it is not too much to say that he was one of the half dozen leaders, who controlled and directed all legislation there.

When he took his place on the committee of the District of Columbia, the work of which does not usually attract the attention of the country, as it is local, he introduced such business methods, and gave its affairs such fine executive ability that afterwards, as chairman, he became the real mayor of Washington.

He was a skilled diplomat, and settled so many vexatious questions, and solved so many perplexing problems, for under the velvet glove was always the iron hand, that in his labors there he has left one of his

greatest monuments, and in the capital of the nation his loss will be sincerely mourned. With a vision that saw the future, he was instrumental in sending to the cities of Europe the commission composed of our most celebrated architects and landscape gardeners, to study the cities of the old world, and perfect the far reaching plans which, when carried to completion, will make Washington one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. When this great work is done in the years to come, the name most closely associated with it will be that of James McMillan.

He was a man of marked sanity, clear and level headed on public questions, and he was never stampeded by the passing delusions of politics. It was worth much to the state and nation to have him in the high place he occupied during the period of hysteria on the money question we have passed through during the past ten years.

Those who have seen the ease with which he accomplished things in the face of great difficulties in the Senate, realized that here was a man to whom few ever denied a request.

I remember in 1894 when the Wilson Tariff bill was before the Senate after weeks of weary debate, with the majority insistent and anxious for a vote, and absolutely refusing all appeals for the introduction

of any other business whatever, Senator Harris, the fiery and uncompromising leader of the Democrats, could not refuse his private request to allow a certain measure to be called up and passed, a request which he denied to all others, and I saw him leave the chamber that he might not appear to grant the favor.

Another incident that summer made a deep impression upon me when, late one hot night, one of the senators from Oregon, who was a member of the conference committee on the River and Harbor bill which had already passed the Senate, and was then before the conference committee of the two houses, hunted me up and asked me to find Senator McMillan immediately, and urge him to invade the committee room the next morning early, as the appropriations for Michigan were endangered by the dominant forces in the committee, which were cutting them out and increasing the sums for the rivers and harbors of the south. It was only because of our appearance there the next morning and his earnest plea to his colleagues of the Senate on the committee, that the appropriations for Michigan were restored. His associates were glad to do him favors and went out of their way to help him, and his uniform courtesy and kindness to others were invaluable traits.

With additional proof of the confidence of the peo-

ple, with increasing power and influence, entering on broader fields of usefulness, he was stricken at the very time when it seemed that his best work yet lay before him.

The story is told of Saladin, the Champion of Islamism, that after he had recaptured the Holy City, and won such fame in Syria and Arabia, and performed such mighty deeds in the battles of the Crusades as to be called The Great, that when he was stricken with a mortal disease, and death was certain, he called his herald who had carried his banner, took up the lance which had been so often victorious in battle, tied his shroud to the end of the lance and said to the herald, "Go unfurl this shroud in the camp, it is the flag of the day, wave it in the air and proclaim, 'This is all that remains of Saladin the Great, the conqueror, the king of the empire, all that remains of all his glory.'"

This cannot be said of him we mourn. Death does not end all. The life which has been full of high service to his country, which can be traced by the monuments of benefactions which still bless his fellow men, does not end with the coffin and the shroud. He has lived in his deeds, in them he still lives, affecting the lives of men, the future of states.

And so the life of our friend, the gentleman, the philanthropist, the statesman, James McMillan, will still, as the seasons come and go, bloom perennially in our history and in our hearts.

Hon. Russell A. Alger

Address by Hon. Russell A. Alger

Mr. President:

Life is measured by deeds, not years, and by that standard the life of James McMillan was filled to the brim. Starting without means, save health and a determined purpose, he rose from a school boy, and then a clerk, to the masterful position so well known by every citizen of this, his adopted State—the head of large enterprises; carried forward with great success until the power of his creative mind was felt throughout the State.

Later, and still while conducting these large affairs, he was elected and twice re-elected by the Legislature of our State to the United States Senate. A man of few words, seldom indulging in oratory, yet his strong, comprehensive mind soon made him one of the trusted, safe leaders in that great body. What greater legacy can be left?

This busy world, and especially this country of ours, affords an open way for every young man who emulates, instead of envies, those who are in the lead.

In conversation with an old man, many years gone

by, when the "luck," as it was called, of a certain man was the subject of conversation, this old pioneer replied with great emphasis: "Don't talk to me about 'luck,' give me the man."

So, I say of our departed Senator, he had a will and a purpose; he exercised the first and followed and conquered that which he sought.

He—the man—came and has departed from our midst; but the impress he made upon our State will remain long after the youngest now here shall have passed to the great beyond.

What more can be asked in this life than the devoted love of a united family and the confidence and esteem of those who knew him best?

All this we can most truly say of James McMillan.

Hon. Julius C. Burrows

Address by Hon. Julius C. Burrows

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislature:

It was most appropriate that you, the accredited representatives of the commonwealth, acting and speaking for the great body of our people, should suspend for a time your ordinary functions and set apart an hour to pay tribute to the memory of one who, thrice commissioned by the Legislature of the State of Michigan to the high office of United States Senator, fell in the public service at his post of duty, full of honors, and at the very zenith of his influence and power. The death, at any time, of such a man as James McMillan, whether citizen or Senator, so identified, as he was, with the material interests of our State, and the industrial development of the country, so exalted in the public regard, and so enthroned in the hearts of the people, could not but be a public misfortune.

But to have fallen thus prematurely, in the full possession of all of his faculties, on the very threshold of the term for which he was elected, and at a time when his ripe experience, mature judgment, and con-

servative character, would have contributed so much to the wise solution of the great problems now vexing the public mind, to have fallen, I repeat, at such a time, in the supreme hour of his usefulness, and of the public needs, was indeed, little less than a national calamity. The place he held in all the various spheres of human activities to which he was called, public and private, cannot readily be supplied. He will be missed in business circles, in the political arena, in the national council chamber, in the every day walks of life, and last, though not least, in the homes and hearts of kindred and friends, where his name will be forever enshrined as a cherished memory.

But it is not my purpose on this occasion to speak of Senator McMillan as a private citizen, in which capacity many of you knew him longer and better than I, and no words of mine can possibly enhance your estimate of his character, or make more secure the memory of his private virtues. I shall speak of him rather as I knew him in public life, as a member of the United States Senate, with whom it was my privilege to serve from January, 1895, to the hour of his death, a period of more than seven years, during which time our relations were of the most cordial character, ripening into a personal friendship, the memory of which will be as enduring as life itself. It was through this

association in the Senate that I came to know him intimately and learned to appreciate those great qualities of head and heart which so endeared him to his colleagues and made him such a prominent factor in the deliberations of the Senate.

James McMillan took his seat in the Senate of the United States as a member of that body from the State of Michigan on the fourth day of March, 1889. It was the beginning of the 51st Congress, a date marking the close of the first century of our national life, and the beginning of a new epoch in American history. Benjamin Harrison was on that day inaugurated President of the United States, and both Houses of Congress were strongly Republican, with Thomas B. Reed Speaker of the National House of Representatives. The questions confronting the nation at that time were not the issues springing from the passions of civil strife, but rather great industrial problems growing out of and incident to an era of peace, requiring for their solution the most considerate judgment and comprehensive statesmanship. It was at such a crisis that Senator McMillan took up his duties in the Senate of the United States. He had reached the mature age of 50 and was fully equipped for the practical affairs of legislation. He was, however, without legislative experience and unskilled in statecraft,

and it may well be imagined that he felt some degree of trepidation in the presence of such veteran statesmen as Edmunds of Vermont, Evarts of New York, Sherman of Ohio and their illustrious compeers, who with matchless skill were writing the laws of a nation and shaping the destinies of a republic. His duty, however, was before him. He had been commissioned by his State to represent her interests in the upper house of the National Congress, where states are equal and every Senator the peer of every other Senator, and with that self-reliance which characterized him in private life, he entered upon the discharge of his duty to his State and country with confidence and complacency. His dignified bearing, courteous demeanor, superb judgment and acknowledged sagacity quickly gained for him the respect of his colleagues and the confidence of the Senate.

In his assignment to committees, where all the real work of legislation in the Senate is performed, regard was had to his thorough acquaintance with business affairs and his great success in private enterprises, the knowledge of which had preceded him and had attracted the attention of the Senate. He was designated as a member of the Committee on the District of Columbia, having in charge, under a commission, of

all legislation affecting the capital city and its environments; the Committee on Post Offices and Post roads, with its infinite variety of details; the Committee on Agriculture, with its vast and ever increasing interests; and finally to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Manufactures. While not all of these committees would rank of the first importance, yet the subjects over which they had jurisdiction furnished ample opportunity to Senator McMillan for the display of those rare business attainments, acquired in the school of experience, which gave him at once a commanding place in the deliberations of the committee room and insured his rapid advancement in the Senate.

By the unwritten law of the Senate, every new Senator must take his place at the foot of the committee to which he is assigned. Senator McMillan formed no exception to this rule. No attainments however commanding, no fortune however abundant is sufficient to break down this practice and tradition of the Senate. Senator McMillan conformed to this custom without question or complaint, discharging every duty, however distasteful and unimportant, with painstaking fidelity, until at the time of his death he had won his way to a place on many of the most important committees of the Senate, over the delibera-

tions of which he exerted a potent and not unfrequently controlling influence. His advancement was as rapid as it was substantial and deserved.

At the close of his life he held the second place on the great Committee on Commerce, presided over by the President pro tempore of the Senate, Mr. Frye of Maine, having in charge the important work of improving our harbors and waterways in the interest of foreign and domestic commerce, for which the Government has already expended during its national existence, more than \$500,000,000. As a member of this committee, he rendered invaluable service not only to the country at large, but to our State in particular, in securing appropriations for the Sault Sainte Marie Canal, with a commerce three times greater than that of the Suez, while the tonnage passing through the Detroit river exceeds that of all the vessels entering or clearing in the foreign trade from all the ports of the United States. This commerce of the great lakes, so closely identified with the material interests of our State and the prosperity of our people, was always to him a matter of supreme moment and watchful solicitude, and he never lost an opportunity to promote its advancement and insure its safety. It was in connection with this committee also that he sought to secure such legislation as would build up our

merchant marine and restore our lost prestige in the carrying trade of the world, a consummation to be attained if we would take the place to which we are entitled among the commercial nations of the globe. He also reached the third place on the Committee of Naval Affairs, where his exalted patriotism and tenacity of purpose contributed in no small degree to the upbuilding of a navy commensurate with the public needs and the safety of the republic. His services were sought on the special Committee on "Relations with Cuba," upon which committee was imposed the onerous task of laying the foundations of a free and stable government for the people of that island, and insuring its continuance among the nations of the earth.

So rapid was the advancement in the regard of the Senate that in the latter part of his term, in addition to his already flattering committee assignments, he was solicited to take a place on the great Committee on Appropriations, dispensing and apportioning the revenues of the Government; and last but not least, he went to the head of the great Committee on the District of Columbia, in the work of which he took a special pride, reviving the original plans determined upon by Washington himself, for the building of the city, and during the later years of his service devoted

much of his time and energies to the execution and perfection of such plans, which when completed, will make the city of Washington the pride of the nation and the rival of the capitals of Europe.

Not only did he attain an enviable position in the committee work of the Senate, but through this he so impressed himself upon the Senate itself, as to be repeatedly called upon to act as a member of the "Committee on Committees," having in charge the assignment of Senators to committee work, a most important function in the effective organization of the Senate. Such was his judgment of men, their aptitude and capacity for legislative work, that this delicate task was always performed to the satisfaction of the members of the body, and with a view of securing the best results in legislation. Then again, he was frequently called upon to participate in the deliberations of the committee having in charge the direction of the order of business, to select from the mass of proposed legislation reported from all the committees, those measures which ought to command the first consideration of the Senate, and be pushed if possible to a successful conclusion. In the performance of this important duty, with the courage of his convictions, and with no personal ends to subserve, he looked only to the public good.

This brief review of his public career is sufficient to show the commanding position he held in the Senate of the United States, and to bring us to a realizing sense of the irreparable loss his death has brought to our State and the nation. Lest it might be thought that these words of eulogy are inspired by an inordinate admiration born of a personal friendship for James McMillan, I beg to bring to you in confirmation of all I have said, the tribute of the Senate itself in the passage of a resolution expressive of its "profound sorrow" at the death of James McMillan and the suspension of the business of the Senate "To enable his associates to pay proper tribute to his character and distinguished public services."

I never witnessed a more impressive scene than that which attended the formal announcement in the Senate of the sudden demise of Senator McMillan. The hush of death fell upon the Chamber and all hearts were heavy with the burden of an unutterable grief. Some conception of the depth and sincerity of this feeling may be gathered from the many tributes paid to his memory by his surviving colleagues, without regard to party or section. Maine, through her illustrious Senator Hale, feelingly said:

"I do not think in twenty years of service in this body I have ever known a Senator for whom all his

associates had so great an affection. To some of us who knew him very well, the void that was made by his death will never be closed. The love that we had for him can not well be expressed. His generosity, his thoughtfulness, his wide charity for the faults and failings of others, his abounding hospitality, all made of his life a sweet song, the notes of which are still vibrating."

Senator Allison of Iowa, long in the public service and the recognized leader of the Senate, not given to flattery, paid this sincere tribute:

"His manners were easy, prepossessing and unaffected. He possessed a charming and winning personality. There was a warmth and directness in what he said and did that won and held the esteem and affection of those with whom he came in contact. He was a valued friend—none more faithfully cherished, none more loyal and true. His friends knew well that, whether absent or present, no disparaging suggestion would come from him, nor was he ever found wanting in fidelity and zeal on their behalf when occasion required."

Senator Cockrell of Missouri, differing in politics, but just in judgment, fittingly said:

"He was an industrious, intelligent, faithful, and worthy Senator, and took an active part in shaping the

legislation and conducting the business of the Senate, and wielded a strong influence."

Senator Platt, of Connecticut, crystallized his thoughts of him into a single sentence:

"Following Carlyle's conception, I think I can with truth say of Senator McMillan, 'When he departed he took a man's life along with him,' and was as complete a piece of American manhood as our times have produced."

Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island, the thorough man of affairs:

"He was always gentle, chivalrous, and genial. He was admirable in every relation of life, domestic, social and official. The loyalty of his friendship was never disputed. The wisdom of his advice in the councils of his party was always acknowledged."

Senator Foster, of Louisiana, summarized his official character:

"He was what may be termed a safe, wise, and conservative legislator, meeting all public questions with a calm equipoise of judgment, and bringing to their solution a ripened experience and the mature consideration of a thorough student."

Senator Cullom of Illinois, long in the public service, and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, paid this just tribute:

"But one sentiment pervades this Senate; it is one of grief on account of his death. In all my experience, and my years are not few, I never saw a man of more splendid qualities of mind and heart."

Senator Warren, of Wyoming, spoke for the Northwest when he declared:

"What I may say concerning our friend and colleague, Hon. James McMillan, whose untimely death we mourn, can not add to his richly deserved good name and fame. Mere words are inadequate to make more patent or enduring what he accomplished for humanity, for his friends, his State, and his country."

No higher tribute could possibly be paid than that of Senator Morgan of Alabama, who in many ways is the most remarkable man in public life to-day:

"I have not known that Senator McMillan, in his Senatorial career, was tempted by that mad partisan zeal or was exposed to those consuming fires of personal ambition or covetousness that sometimes burn and rage in the furnace of trial in this Chamber. If he was, he triumphed over these enemies of American honor and celebrated his victory by presenting, in his conduct, a true example of an incorruptible and faithful American Senator."

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire, who served

with Senator McMillan on the Committee of the District of Columbia, and now succeeds to its Chairmanship, spoke from a knowledge born of long association when he said:

"And so to-day, paying tribute to his memory, we not only recognize him as associate, friend, and Christian gentleman, but proclaim him the benefactor of the nation's capital, the wise and loyal friend of the nation's welfare."

Senator Perkins of California:

"His life as a public and a private man will ever serve as an incentive to bring to bear in public and private business that industry, sincerity, honesty, and loyalty which made him what he was—a man receiving and deserving the respect and gratitude of the people of the United States."

South Carolina could not withhold her tribute from the lips of Senator Tillman:

"Kindly, quiet, gentle, there was still that firmness which indicated that he had absolute faith in his own purposes and absolute confidence in his own judgment."

Senator Fairbanks of Indiana voiced, I am sure, the sentiment of his people when he said:

"His career was one of great usefulness and meas-

ured by the best human standards, it was a most successful and honorable one. He loved his country, he loved his State, he loved his fellowmen. He lived for them, and he would, if need had been, have died for them."

New York, through her eloquent Senator Depew, contributed her estimate of his character in comprehensive phrase:

"Here we have a friend who in every position in life did his duty according to his best lights as a father, a husband and a citizen, a man and a Senator. He so lived during the time allotted to him by God that when in a moment he was called to join the majority, he left behind him nothing but praise and had before him the certainty of reward."

And last though not least, Massachusetts, from whose shores, resounding with the anthem of the sea, his soul took its eternal flight, speaks through her ornate Senator Lodge:

"But behind his ability and his industry so thoroughly shown in his work here and its results was a fine character and a nature at once strong and gentle. There were no secrets in his life, no hidden record which he feared would leap to life. Under the kindly manner, the genial good nature, and the sympathetic

humor was rigid honesty in act and purpose, high-minded devotion to duty, and unbending patriotism. Modest and quiet always, he was nevertheless ever firm and courageous."

No higher encomiums than these could possibly be pronounced, and none were ever more richly deserved, and in bringing to you these tributes of his surviving colleagues in the Senate, the Nation unites with the State in deplored the death and honoring the memory of James McMillan.

What more can be said. Senator Lodge summed up the dominating attributes of his character when he declared "Under a kindly manner, there was rigid honesty and high-minded devotion to duty. Modest and quiet always, yet ever firm and courageous." How prominently these qualities stood out in his public life.

During the thirteen years of his service in the Senate, though political and industrial revolutions swept over the country, following each other in quick succession, shaking the purpose of the weak and vacillating, yet in victory and in defeat, in prosperity and adversity, in peace and war, he stood unmoved, the same self-centered courageous representative of the people, never compromising with error or surrendering to expediency.

"He never sold the truth to serve the hour,
Or palter'd with Eternal God for power."

But his life work is ended, and it only remains for us to cherish his memory and emulate his virtues. These are a priceless legacy to be preserved and transmitted. In the mutations of time, all else may be forgotten, and even these may pass from the recollection of men. But if the time should ever come when the life and character of Senator McMillan shall cease to influence our people in the conduct of their private or public affairs; if the industries born of his genius, and nurtured by his sagacity should languish and decay; if his unostentatious yet munificent benefactions should cease to awaken a responsive chord in the hearts of the living; if even his name should fade from the memory of living men and be recognized only in the dim light of tradition, yet the city of Washington resurrected into a new life at his command with its broadened avenues, expanding parks, imposing public buildings and memorial bridge, spanning the Potomac, resting on the one side at the base of Lincoln's statue and on the other at the foot of Arlington, where sleep the martyred hosts who at Lincoln's call went down to battle and death for liberty and country; if all else, I repeat, should be forgotten, the national capital will remain so long as

the republic shall stand, an enduring monument to the foresight, sagacity and patriotism of James McMillan.

The resolutions offered by Senator Lockerby in behalf of the Joint Committee were unanimously adopted.

Senator Bangham moved that the Joint Convention adjourn.

The motion prevailed, the time being 9:57 o'clock p. m.

ELBERT V. CHILSON,

Secretary of the Senate.

CHARLES S. PIERCE,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretaries of the Joint Convention.

Biographical Sketch

Biographical Sketch

BY CHARLES MOORE

Private Secretary to Senator McMillan, 1889-1902; and Clerk of
the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia.

When death comes suddenly to a man busy with great affairs the pathos of it lies not in the fact that he was not permitted to see the end of his labors and to reach the goal of his endeavor. To such death "openeth the gate to good fame and extinguisheth envy." But when the leader falls too often the tide of battle turns; for real leadership comes only through the steadfast pursuit of worthy aims, and is a matter rather of experience and adaptability than of accident. There were certain tasks to which Senator McMillan had set himself, certain ends he proposed to reach; and in these purposes of his he had the confidence and support of thousands of persons scattered all over this land, who looked upon him as the leader in the new propaganda not alone for the embellishment of the American city, but also for the better administration of all civic functions. What he aimed to accomplish in the capital of the nation others strove to attain elsewhere:

and when he declared that Washington should be made the best governed and the most beautiful capital of the world, the cry found quick response among the people from ocean to ocean.

Thus it happens that aside from the loss to his intimates of an agreeable companion, a sagacious counsellor, and a steadfast friend, the sudden death of Senator McMillan is a national loss, in that it takes away a conspicuous and able leader in a cause which the people have at heart. And while it cannot be doubted that others will take up the work, and ultimately will carry it to a successful conclusion, it will be contrary to all human observation if any one shall be found able to step at once into a place gained by years of experience, almost infinite patience, and rare ability to adapt means to ends.

The facts known in regard to Senator McMillan's ancestry are not many. Tradition has it that his grandfather, who lived in Stranraer, a small seaport in Wigtownshire in the South of Scotland, was an adventurous sea captain. However this may be, he was well along in years when his sons William and James were born; and he died while they were quite young. William married in Scotland Miss MacMeakin and in the '30's came to America with the intention of settling in Indiana; but friends persuaded him to

make his home in Hamilton, Ontario, while his brother located at Galt. William's eldest son, James, was born in Hamilton, on May 12, 1838; and, after a sound grammar school education and some years of training in the hardware business, in 1855 he came to Detroit, where he entered upon an eminently successful business career, the steps of which are too well known to need repetition here.

On Wednesday, the second day of January, 1889, a caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature of Michigan unanimously nominated James McMillan, of Detroit, for member of the United States Senate, to succeed the Honorable Thomas Witherell Palmer, who had not been a candidate for re-election; and on the sixteenth of January, Mr. McMillan was elected to that office by the Joint Convention, receiving 68 votes to 27 cast for the Honorable Melbourne H. Ford, then a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from the Fifth Congressional District. He was unanimously re-elected in 1895; and had no opposition in his own party when he was re-elected in 1901.

Mr. McMillan's public service had not been extensive. A member of the Detroit Board of Estimates in 1874, and one of the Detroit Park Commissioners from 1881 to 1883, he gave to that city the benefit of

his experience and counsel at two critical junctures. As a party leader, however, he had established a reputation for success in the First District Congressional campaigns of John S. Newberry in 1878; and of Henry W. Lord in 1880; and especially in the campaign of 1886, when as Chairman of the State Central Committee he reunited and reorganized the Republican party and won a victory when defeat seemed imminent.

If at the time of the senatorial caucus there were prophets gifted with the foresight to discern the place Mr. McMillan would come to occupy in national councils, they were not among the eloquent speakers who on that occasion emphasized the value of the business man in political life. And among the letters of congratulation (numerous, sincere, and hearty as they were) I find but one which even dimly anticipates the future. The Hon. George V. N. Lothrop, long at the head of the Michigan bar, and during the first administration of President Cleveland, minister to Russia, a man of great refinement of both manners and character, had come to know Mr. McMillan intimately. Standing outside the excitements and the ambitions of both business and political life, Mr. Lothrop deliberately wrote this letter:

94 WEST FORT STREET,

January 3, 1889.

Dear Mr. McMillan:

As I may safely assume that the nomination which I was glad to see announced this morning is practically an election, I come at once to offer my congratulations. You are to be congratulated not merely upon your elevation to the high place of Senator, but, as I think, much more upon the way in which the honor comes to you. I care little for the glamour that usually hangs around high public place—that is often false and delusive, and at any rate soon fades. But any man may receive and cherish with pride an appointment to public service which is not the fruit of base self-seeking, but is offered as a tribute of the sincere respect and esteem of good men.

This preference comes to you in the prime of your life; you may justly look for a future rich in opportunities for new and increased usefulness. For all this you have my heartiest good wishes.

I will only add that besides my personal pleasure, I have a patriotic pride in knowing that one of the highest public trusts of Michigan is most worthily and honorably filled.

Most truly yours, etc.,

GEO. V. N. LOTHROP.

Hon. James McMillan.

That kindly courtesy which Mr. McMillan always exercised towards those with whom he came in contact, was shown to him by the retiring Senator, on the occasion of a brief visit to Washington immediately succeeding his election. Personally popular with both the Republicans and the Democrats, Senator Palmer made Mr. McMillan acquainted with Senators of position and influence, and thus paved the way for attentions somewhat unusual in the case of a new-comer.

Those were indeed stirring days in Washington. The election of Benjamin Harrison to succeed President Cleveland had brought about a political revolution. During the four years that the Democratic party had enjoyed power for the first time since the election of Lincoln in 1860, Mr. Cleveland had attacked the policy of protection with a vigor that brought about dissension and led to defeat. Thereupon the Republicans again took office with the feeling that the party was called upon to strengthen and perpetuate that policy. Also, certain of the Republican leaders were determined to effect the control of elections in the southern States in the interest of the whole body of citizens; and hence came a determined and prolonged effort to pass what was popularly known by both its friends and its enemies as the Force Bill. Again, the silver question was coming to the front as a party issue. In the House

of Representatives the majority, under the leadership of the Speaker, Thomas B. Reed, accomplished after a long and bitter fight changes in the House rules by virtue of which filibustering was effectively ended, and the majority was enabled to pass measures after such length of debate as the leaders might determine. This radical change, placing as it did autocratic power in the hands of the Speaker, led to the nickname of Czar, which became an argument in the next campaign. It was amid scenes of such political ferment that Mr. McMillan began his legislative career.

Legislative work is the avocation of a majority of the members of the Senate. It is true that a fractional portion of that body from choice pay small heed to public business, and that another fraction occupy seats in the Senate, but are without further influence than that which the right to vote gives them. By far the larger number, however, devote practically their entire time, and their very considerable abilities, to the vast and varied concerns of the Government of the United States. So exacting and so diverse are these tasks that each Senator who exercises wide influence does so by becoming a specialist.

The first concern of every new Senator is committee assignments, the unwritten law being that each new

member is entitled to a place on at least one working committee. Having declined appointments on the Interstate Commerce Committee because he was president of the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railway (a position he relinquished at the earliest opportunity); and on Commerce, in order to preserve harmony in certain quarters, Mr. McMillan received a modest array of places: on Post Offices and Post Roads, Agriculture and Forestry, and the District of Columbia, together with the Chairmanship of the Committee on Manufactures.

Senator McMillan found the work of the Committee on the District of Columbia highly congenial. For a decade or more, John J. Ingalls had been Chairman of that committee, and next to him the ranking members were Senators Spooner of Wisconsin and Farwell of Illinois. One of the bills assigned to Mr. McMillan related to railway terminals in the city of Washington, a subject that had defied settlement for many years. During his first session Mr. McMillan piloted the bill through the Senate and during the Congress it became a law. Other District measures received such intelligent and discriminating treatment at his hands that when the three Senators named above failed to be re-elected, Mr. McMillan, after but two years of service,

was made Chairman of a committee, among the first in importance, and second to none in the amount of work and attention demanded.

His tasks in relation to the District of Columbia embraced the entire range of civic activities. During his chairmanship and on his insistence the street railways were changed from horse-power to the underground electric system; plans were adopted to extend the street system of the city of Washington throughout the District of Columbia; the public schools were investigated and radical changes in government were made; a complete system of public charities was devised as the result of extended investigation; a slow-sand filtration plant for the purification of the water supply was begun; the terminal facilities of the steam railways were completely revised in the light of the best practice and of future needs; and many like changes requiring breadth of view and good judgment were brought about.

In the minds of the people, however, Senator McMillan's name is associated with those plans for the development of the National Capital which aim to restore the design approved by Washington and Jefferson, and to extend that plan to meet future requirements; so that ultimately the capital of the United States shall become the most dignified and beautiful seat of government in the world. Failing in one Con-

gress to secure the establishment of such a commission as would be competent to deal with so important a subject, he seized the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of the removal of the seat of government to the District of Columbia to bring his ideas effectively before the Governors of the States and the distinguished guests assembled on that occasion; and then he obtained the legislation under which he was enabled to secure the coöperation of four men of ability so conspicuous that their plans have met with the highest approval both at home and abroad—Daniel H. Burnham, Charles Follen, McKim, Augustus Saint Gaudens, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Keeping in close touch with the work of this commission, Senator McMillan supported them in the preparation of their elaborate plans; and in his determination that the presentation of these designs should be adequate and lasting he advanced from time to time many thousands of dollars, contingent on future approval and repayment by Congress.

It is in the highest degree improbable that without the initiative and influence of Senator McMillan plans so comprehensive and so far-reaching would have been devised; and happily he was permitted to participate in legislation involving the expenditure of more than twenty-five million dollars in furtherance of an improvement the completion of which will require a cen-

tury. In fact the legislation for the removal of the steam railroads from the Mall, the essential pre-requisite to the scheme, not only bears his name, but was the result primarily of his legislative skill and the confidence Congress had in his intelligence and discriminating interest in the District of Columbia.

Scarcely less engrossing than the District work was that of the Committee on Commerce, to which he was assigned later. Owing to the fact that the Chairman, Senator Frye, was the president pro tempore of the Senate, much of the important work of the committee devolved on Mr. McMillan. The deep-water channel between Chicago and Duluth and Buffalo was begun before he became a member of the committee; but that project was brought into effect by means of a tour of investigation of the Great Lakes made by members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and the House Committee on Rivers and Harbors. This tour was organized by Mr. McMillan and Congressman Stephenson, and was conducted largely at their expense. As a member of the Commerce Committee Mr. McMillan arrayed himself with those who stood for the immediate and adequate improvement of the great commercial harbors; and he was heartily in favor of irrigating the arid lands of the west, a project which first saw light in the Committee on Commerce.

Service on the Committee on Naval Affairs, also, he found most agreeable, because of the pleasant companionship and the large nature of the problems connected with the upbuilding of the navy; nor was the work of the Committee on Relations with Cuba less congenial. The latter committee was carefully made up from among the most conservative and experienced members of the Senate, and that most perplexing question of the duty on cane sugar gave great importance to its deliberations.

An assignment on the Committee on Appropriations came to Mr. McMillan against his own will, and he served thereon only during the session before his death; but during that short time he was one of its most assiduous members. The appropriation for the restoration of the White House was made at his instigation, when he found that the President wished to place the work in charge of Mr. McKim. The personal tax law now in force in the District of Columbia is the result of prolonged discussion and a large amount of study, the outcome being substantially the McMillan bill providing for the taxation of tangible property situated in the District of Columbia. Taken as a whole, this legislation is probably the most scientific and the least objectionable personal tax law in force anywhere in the United States. The fact that it is contained in an

appropriation bill is a measure of the legislative difficulties encountered.

Aside from the official committees of the Senate, there are certain caucus committees representing the party—a committee which at the beginning of each Congress determines the membership of the committees, a body whose decisions are of the highest possible concern to the individual Senators; a steering committee to regulate the order of business and the passage or suppression of proposed legislation; and a committee on patronage, whose tasks are most perplexing and bothersome. For the three Congresses preceding his death Senator McMillan was a member of the Committee on Committees, and many a new Senator took occasion to thank him for the consideration he showed to their desires and the fairness of treatment he demanded for them when older members strove to obtain an undue proportion of the desirable places. And when, in the distribution of caucus honors, it was not advisable to make him a member of the nominal steering committee, at least he invariably met with the controlling sub-committee of that body. Again, the redistribution of patronage in the Senate, after an interval of Democratic and free-silver control, was made according to a scheme that he devised as the fairest possible plan of division, and in that scheme both long

service and merit were placed ahead of political considerations. While he never disputed the maxim "to the victor belongs the spoils," he was ever careful to eliminate from the category of spoils such places as call for peculiar efficiency.

A few years ago a leading Washington correspondent named seven men who controlled the Senate which, he said, meant that they controlled the legislation of the nation. The statement was taken up by the press, was widely commented upon, and was admitted to be correct. One of the seven named was Mr. McMillan, and six of the number belonged to a group of eight or ten Senators who were accustomed to dine together once each week, primarily for the purpose of securing harmony and concert of action on party and national questions. These meetings were prolonged often well into the morning when subjects like the federal elections bill, the shipping bill, or financial measures brought about a clash of views; for there was no one of the number who had not strong opinions which he was ready to defend. At such times Mr. McMillan was at his best. His calm judgment, his ability to see the controlling issues, his absolute patience, his uniform courtesy, and his freedom from personal bias enabled him to reach conclusions that were recognized as both sound and judicious.

The preparation of the latest river and harbor appropriation bill occupied much of Mr. McMillan's time. Just after he entered the Senate there was a question as to whether or not President Harrison would veto a river and harbor bill carrying eleven million dollars, because of the largeness of the appropriation. So rapid has been the increase in the amounts carried by these biennial bills that when the present law was before the Conference Committee, the differences between the two Houses amounted to nearly as much as the entire appropriation of 1890! At first the House conferees were disposed to yield but a paltry \$500,000; but the increases of the Senate had been made in accordance with a principle which that body was ready to maintain. One day, after a month of prolonged struggle, hasty words passed. Mr. McMillan, who was chairman of the conference, calmed matters by saying: "Gentlemen, it is evident that no agreement can be reached by us. Our course is plain. We must report to our respective houses that we have been unable to reach an agreement, and the bill will fail. But let us do this in an orderly manner. At least, we will shake hands before we part." To which the reply on the part of the spokesman for the House was: "Senator McMillan, this coming from *you* puts a different phase on the matter. I ask leave to withdraw with

my colleagues for a short consultation." The result was that the Senate maintained the principle contended for, and the bill became a law.

Although after a notable instance of reconciling two Senators he acquired the title of "the peace maker of the Senate," Mr. McMillan was far from being a compromiser. Often he yielded a minor point, not infrequently he bowed to temporary defeat; but in the end his way prevailed. He would say to discouraged ones: "Congress meets again on the first Monday of next December! we will try once more." Thus it happened that as he grew older in legislative work, the close of each session saw an increasingly large number of his measures enacted into laws.

Too much stress has been laid on the fact that Senator McMillan was not a speaker. It is true that he made but two or three set speeches, and these were without any attempt at oratorical effect. He was not a public speaker; he shunned addressing large audiences; but when he did speak at gatherings to promote a matter in which he was interested his impromptu remarks were singularly happy and effective. He spoke in the Senate when it was necessary to explain measures in his charge; and few members of that body were better able to pilot a bill among the reefs of parliamentary procedure. In the main however he cultivated

silence for a purpose. The late Senator Harris of Tennessee, a parliamentarian of great experience, gave to Mr. McMillan this advice: "If you really wish to pass your bill, say nothing about it unless some one asks a question or makes an attack. Then reply in the fewest possible words. More measures are killed by their friends than by their opponents." Often Mr. McMillan sat calmly through attacks on his measures, and sometimes on himself; then when the objecting Senator paused he went to him and quietly explained matters, so that the opposition was withdrawn. This he could do readily, because he took great pains to understand thoroughly each bill that he presented; he knew more about it than any one else did, and he never undertook to pass a bill until in his judgment it ought to pass. In preparation for an important measure, he was accustomed to canvass the Senate quietly, and, in the coat-room or the committee room, to explain the bill and argue its merits. He never asked Senators to vote for a bill as a favor to him, and he never voted against his own convictions as a favor to another Senator.

One day a well-known politician and street railway man came to Senator McMillan to explain that he had made arrangements to have the over-head trolley system introduced into the city of Washington. Mr. Mc-

Millan was not at the time Chairman of the District Committee. He listened patiently until his caller had finished, and then said quietly that he thought he could defeat the proposition in the Senate, and that he certainly would try to do so. There was something in the way he spoke which convinced the other that the attempt was hopeless, and full of wrath he departed; and this ended the last attempt to evade the installation of that least disfiguring of all street railway systems—the underground trolley.

Although naturally classed among the friends of corporations, Senator McMillan always maintained that he was their best friend when he insisted that they act fairly towards the public. To the representative of one of the leading railways, who was trying to secure the confirmation of the nomination of a man whose appointment was known to have been dictated by the railroad, he said with a good deal of indignation: "You will live to thank me for defeating that man. What your company needs is not a tool, but a fair man. The worst enemy you can possibly have is an official whom the public knows to be your servant."

Senator McMillan was never afraid of the future. He looked forward to the day when for the good of stockholders the Government shall exercise large supervision over corporate affairs, especially over the

affairs of those corporations which rival the Government itself in the magnitude of their operations. Public ownership of quasi-public works he regarded as certain to have a trial in this country, and he was disposed to hasten that day, although he believed that in the end individual initiative will be found more advantageous than governmental management.

While not a reformer in theory, in practice Senator McMillan often became one. He had no sympathy with those who would sweep aside existing methods in order to substitute some pet theory of their own. Conservative by nature, he believed that the best results are obtained by carrying out honestly and faithfully the system in vogue. He had a rare faculty of getting at the essential thing to be done; and then he would accept the most straightforward method to reach the end. Hence it was that, although he was often the despair of those persons who appeared at the committee room with plans for accelerating the coming of the millennium, the results of his work were often absolutely revolutionary, and always beneficent.

Senator McMillan carried business methods into politics; that is, he carried his own business methods into politics. Like most really busy men he was particular to keep engagements, and was punctual to the moment. On one occasion, a lawyer from another

State, who had no direct claim upon him, but who had pressing business with the President, ventured to seek aid by calling on Senator McMillan at his home. Leaving the table, where he was entertaining guests, Mr. McMillan heard the lawyer's brief story, and appointed the hour of 9:45 next morning as the time of meeting at the White House. At the moment named the Senator stepped from his carriage and in a quarter of an hour the business was transacted. Afterwards, driving to the Capitol, Mr. McMillan apologized for the early hour of the appointment by saying that he had one committee meeting at 10:30 and another at 11, a hearing at the close of the morning business in the Senate, and that the Senators whom he had been entertaining the night before got into a discussion that lasted until well into the morning hours. Thus the evening and the morning made his busy day.

Speeches were irksome to him, and although he would sit by the hour in the Senate, watching an opportunity to pass a bill, any Senator to whom he listened must have something very practical to say. And when the day's session ended he usually sought that Senator with whom he sustained the most intimate relations and together they took a long drive through country lane or wooded park, before entering

upon those most exacting social duties which play so large a part in political life at Washington.

Senator McMillan never made a promise unless he saw his way clear to fulfil it. He held strictly to the text that appointments to office are made by the President of the United States, Senators and Representatives acting as his advisers when he so requests. Thus it happened that he never had occasion to take issue with a President over an appointment; he was always consulted; and he acquiesced cheerfully in those rare instances when a President wished to select a man whom the Senator himself would not have chosen. Until an appointment was decided upon, the recommendations of every candidate received equal attention; and when the name was sent in none of the disappointed ones could claim that a promise had been broken. In this way bitter feelings were avoided to the extent that such avoidance is possible in politics. Moreover, he acknowledged no obligations beyond those of friendship. He would exert himself to the utmost to help a friend; but whenever a man claimed place or influence as a right, then into the usually beaming eye came the glitter of steel.

Mr. McMillan had many acquaintances; but he had few friendships. Singularly adaptable, and many-sided, he touched many men at one point or another.

but it was given to few persons to know him intimately. There were peaks and valleys, lights and shadows in his nature; and no one could claim really to know him who had not observed the storm as well as the sunshine. When the eye blazed with righteous indignation, it was as the play of the lightning among mountain summits; again, his pity and effective helpfulness were as rain upon the mown grass. On occasion he could be hard and stern; but he was so true himself that he was slow to believe ill of one whom he personally had no reason to distrust. He was an excellent judge of human nature; but he would rather be imposed upon than withhold needed relief.

He would not admit that he had an enemy, and he never stooped to revenge. On those rare occasions when he was reviled, he set it down to ignorance or malignity; and, incased in an impenetrable armor of conscious rectitude, he bore the attacks in silence, never having long to wait for the vindication he scorned to pursue. This attitude was neither studied nor assumed; it was instinctive, and any suggestion that ran counter to it met an emphatic negative.

A respect for dignitaries was born in him. The President of the United States, the Governor of a State, a member of the Senate, the mayor of a great city, each was entitled to respect on account of the

office, quite aside from what might be due him as a man. So, too, he respected intellectual attainments and worthy achievements of any kind, and thus it came about that men of rare gifts delighted to talk with him, and found in his receptive and discriminating mind a basis for companionship. I have seen men eminent in art and in letters go away after a conversation with him greatly impressed with the sense that underneath all forms of expression there are in all finely organized natures certain elements that form a common basis for interchange of thought. He delighted in art and his taste increased year by year; he enjoyed books, but his reading perforce was limited by the weakness of his eyes; he delighted in the theater as a means of recreation; but most he enjoyed the conversation in the smoking-room after dinner, when men of parts got together and there was free play of wit and intelligence. With true insight he rejected the egotistical, the self-seeking, the arrogant; and he drew to himself those sincere, simple, expansive natures among whom the interchange of thought is like the leaping of the electric spark.

This is not the place to do more than advert to Mr. McMillan's family relations. Let it be said, however, that to him home was a sacred place. From it he rigorously excluded all who would have been but per-

functory guests. Those to whom it was allowed to share his hospitality did so without stint. Whatever concerned him concerned also his family. With them he discussed the men and measures of the day. They were his most cherished companions. They shared his pleasures, and accompanied him on his journeys. He had no life apart from them; and wherever he went, there for a longer or shorter time, a home was established. Elegance without ostentation, and comfort without display were the characteristics of that home. The house on Jefferson avenue in Detroit marked the attainment of business success; the Washington home stood for the dignity and hospitality of a high public official abundantly able to support the one and to dispense the other. The great stretch of wood and meadow and wave-beaten rock at Manchester-by-the Sea represented relaxation from care and the serenity of vigorous age spent amid children and children's children. "To have a place for my grandchildren to come to, I have built it," he said; but to them he himself was the life and light of it.

A great nature dwarfs ordinary natures with which it comes in contact. How petty become the struggles to force this place or to crowd ahead of that man, how mean the imputation of unworthy motives, how sordid the attempt to gain political advantage by a trick, when

brought into the calm, clear light of a soul magnanimous, essentially just, patient in endeavor and serene in the assurance that to those who intelligently strive there is both joy in the running and certitude in winning the goal. Mr. McMillan never felt that it was necessary for him to be elected or re-elected to the Senate; but he always conceived it his duty to be worthy of a seat in that body. The record of his last day on earth; the written messages of cheer and succor to the unfortunate; the happy hours of sport with a beloved grandson; the genial intercourse with wife and daughter ministering to what all believed but a temporary indisposition, then the quick passage into the life beyond—all these things were characteristic of the man. While no summons could have found him unprepared, humanly speaking none could have found him more ready. There were letters written that day which must be copied in the Book of Life; and of him may be said by those who knew him best, as Emerson said of Senator Sumner: "His was the whitest soul I ever knew."

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LANSING, MICH.

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